

**DRAFT**

**WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE  
SONOMA MARIN SAVING WATER PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS AND  
GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN'S EMERGENCY DROUGHT DECLARATION  
THAT INCLUDES SEEKING 20% VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION**

WHEREAS, the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply (RA), executed on June 23, 2006, by and between the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), the Cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma and Forestville, the North Marin and Valley of the Moon Water Districts and the Town of Windsor, collectively known as the Water Contractors, creates the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); and

WHEREAS, the Water Contractors, along with SCWA and Marin Municipal Water District, are members of the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership (Partnership), through which these members have joined together to provide a regional approach to water use efficiency; and

WHEREAS, these Partnership members recognize that establishing common water conservation projects on a regional basis and applicable across the political and jurisdictional boundaries of each member may be a means of cost effectively conserving more water than would be otherwise be conserved on an individual member-by-member basis; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership, through its many water efficiency programs, educational seminars and outreach campaigns, is working to educate our communities about the importance of conserving water resources and eliminating water-wasting behaviors; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership received a 2013 WaterSense Excellence award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for promoting water efficient irrigation practices through implementation of the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Program (QWEL). QWEL educates landscape professionals and their customers on the benefits of sound landscape and design, management and irrigation practices. The award was one of the only five issued by the EPA nationally; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership members have taken a regional approach to comply with the Water Conservation Act of 2009 (SBx7-7) requiring a 20% reduction in per capita water use

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by year 2020, and the individual members and regional effort has resulted in meeting this target eight years in advance of the compliance deadline; and

WHEREAS, in summer 2013 the “20-Gallon Challenge” was embraced by community members who pledged to reduce water use by 20 gallons per person per day. The 20-Gallon Challenge was promoted throughout the Russian River Watershed expanding the Partnership reach into Mendocino County. Working together in Sonoma, Marin and Mendocino counties, the “20-Gallon Challenge” resulted in a positive response to the 2013 dry spring conditions; and

WHEREAS, calendar year 2013 was the lowest rainfall year on record in 120 years; and

WHEREAS, the historical dry conditions have resulted in severely low storage levels in Lake Mendocino (36% of capacity) requiring a Temporary Urgency Change Order to be issued by the State Water Resources Control Board enabling lower in stream releases to the Russian River and preserving lake storage; and

WHEREAS, storage level in Lake Sonoma on Dry Creek (66% of capacity) is not significantly below normal and SCWA will re-evaluate water supply conditions in spring 2014 to determine whether it will be necessary to file a subsequent Temporary Urgency Change Petition to address Lake Sonoma storage conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership members have embarked on a regional water use efficiency media campaign titled: “There’s a Drought on. Turn the Water Off” designed to increase awareness and reduce water use; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2014 Governor Brown declared a statewide drought in California and called for a 20% voluntary reduction in water use:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Water Advisory Committee hereby pledges to support the Partnership efforts; and

Encourages residents to increase water use efficiency by fixing leaks and eliminating unnecessary outdoor irrigation to help protect and preserve reliable drinking water supplies stored in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma; and

Urges water customers to heed the Governors’ declaration to reduce water use by 20%.

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ADOPTED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2014 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: